

PATENT

C. REMARKS**1. Summary of the Claims**

Independent claims 1, 8, and 14 have been amended, and claims 3, 10, and 16 have been canceled. Claims 1, 5, 7-8, 11, 13-14, 18, and 20-27 are currently pending in the Application, and claims 1, 8, 14, and 27 are independent claims.

2. Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 27 is allowed. Claims 3, 10, 16, and 21-26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In order to expedite prosecution of the present Application, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations previously found in dependent claim 3, and have canceled claim 3. Similarly, Applicants have amended independent claims 8 and 14 to include the limitations previously found in dependent claims 10 and 16 respectively, and have canceled claims 10 and 16. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 8, and 14, and the claims which depend from them are allowable, and respectfully request that they be allowed.

Docket No.
AUS920010361US1

Page 13

Atty Ref. No. IBM-1020

Banerjee et al. - 09/870,610

PATENT

3. Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 5, 8, 11, 14, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,389,532 to Gupta et al. (hereinafter "Gupta") in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0101819 to Goldstone (hereinafter Goldstone). Claims 7, 13, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gupta in view of Goldstone, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,892,903 to Klaus (hereinafter Klaus). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Based on Applicants' amendments, as discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are now moot.

CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that claims 1, 5, 7-8, 11, 13-14, 18, and 20-27 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request an allowance of these claims.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the Applicants' attorney listed below if the Examiner believes

Docket No.
AUS920010361US1

Page 14

Atty Ref. No. IBM-1020

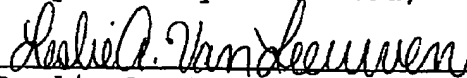
Banerjee et al. - 09/870,610

PATENT

that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining questions or issues related to this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Docket No.
AUS920010361US1

Page 15

Atty Ref. No. IBM-1020

Banerjee et al. - 09/870,610